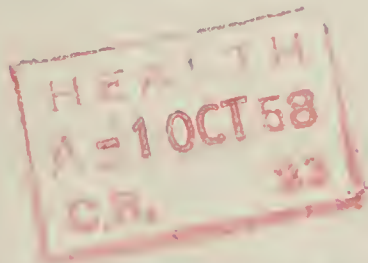


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ULVERSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1957

ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1957

Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

August, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1951	10,076
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1957	10,410
Number of inhabited houses	3,268
Rateable Value	£118,310
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate	£461.827

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dress making and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

Accident at Windscale.

Special reference must be made to the local effects of the accident which occurred at Windscale No. 1 Pile on 10th October, 1957. It will be recalled that the pile became overheated during a routine maintenance operation and as a result radioactive products were liberated. Most of these were trapped in the filters of the plant and the only isotope to escape into the atmosphere in appreciable amounts was radio-iodine. This was carried by the prevailing wind and deposited on the ground over an area of approximately 200 square miles including the Urban District of Ulverston. The greatest hazard to health came from the consumption of milk from cows grazed on the contaminated land and especially to infants and children who are relatively bigger consumers and more susceptible to the effects of radiation. The distribution of milk from this District was suspended on 15th October and not resumed until tests had shown that its radio-iodine content had fallen to a safe level.

As events turned out and perhaps as a result of the precautions taken, no damage to the health of the inhabitants occurred but the Council & officers concerned were put into a difficult position and considerable disquiet was caused by the scarcity of authoritative information about the incident and the measures being taken to safeguard the health of the public. This lack of

liason has now been recognised and a standing liason committee has been set up at Windscale. Although the Council is not directly represented on it, it is expected that liason in the future will be maintained through the County Council.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:- J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chire., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health.
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.
Grange-over-Sands Urban District,
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1,
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:- J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I.
Meat and other foods.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1957 and for the preceding five years are given on page three.

Of the 150 births registered during 1957, 73 were males of which 3 were illegitimate and 77 were females of which 1 was illegitimate.

Approximately 75% of deaths were of persons 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 42, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 20 and Malignant growths 19.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller Towns and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.	160 Smaller Towns 25,000-50,000 Population.	Ulverston Urban District.
	Birth Rate Death Rate	Birth Rate Death Rate	Birth Rate Death Rate
1953	15.5 11.4	15.7 11.3	14.4 10.9
1954	15.2 11.3	15.4 11.3	13.2 10.5
1955	15.0 11.7	14.9 11.9	14.1 9.3
1956	15.6 11.7	15.6 11.6	15.6 11.8
1957	16.1 11.5	16.0 11.4	14.5 10.0

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality			
	Number Regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number Regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Neo-Natal	
1957	150	x14.4	112	x10.8	8	51	1	6.33	1	7	1	7
1956	158	15.3	131	12.6	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	38	6	38
1955	142	13.8	110	10.7	1	7	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7
1954	133	13.0	124	12.1	2	15	Nil	Nil	2	15	2	15
1953	139	13.7	126	12.4	3	21	Nil	Nil	4	29	3	22
1952	153	15.2	128	12.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	5	33	1	7
Average 5 years 1952-1956	-	14.2	-	12.1	-	16.2	-	-	-	24.4	-	17.8

x Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.01) = 14.5 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.93) = 10.0 per 1,000

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand filtered before storage in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

During the year the supply was satisfactory in quantity.

4 bacteriological analyses and 2 chemical analyses of the treated water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results. Analyses of the untreated water showed that it was unfit for consumption in its raw state. Two samples taken from private supplies were unsatisfactory.

During the year 24 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,264 houses were supplied direct to the houses. 12 were supplied by standpipes and 15 from private supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

At 31st December, 1957 there were approximately 3,230 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 4,750 water closets.

I am indebted to Mr. A.L. Kay, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for the following account of the new main drainage scheme.

"The Main Drainage Scheme referred to in previous reports has now been completed.

The following conditions appertained before the work was carried out:-

1. The outfall sewers were inadequate to deal with the flow and storm overflows into the Town Beck operated more often than was desirable, resulting in pollution of the beck.
2. The outfall sewers were regularly surcharged particularly at the coincidence of a high tide and heavy rainfall, and flooding occurred in the lower part of the town.
3. The joint flow from the outfall sewers discharged into the sea at any state of the tide, thus resulting in sewage being carried back by the incoming tide, and crude sewage being deposited on the shore.

The work was carried out in stages by several contracts.

Firstly a new outfall sewer was laid to serve the new Croftlands Park Housing Estate, and a concrete Outfall Bay was constructed at the point on the coast where all outfall sewers met. Over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sewers were laid at this stage.

Secondly the two outfall sewers from the older parts of the town, and certain inadequate tributary sewers in the lower part of the town were replaced. Again over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sewers were laid. Five objectionable storm overflows to the Town Beck were eliminated, and one properly designed Storm Overflow Manhole was constructed. This storm overflow is designed to pass 10 times the dry weather flow forward to the coast and any storm water in excess of this amount is passed to the beck. There is a great improvement in the state of the beck.

Thirdly storage tanks and a pumping station were constructed adjacent to the outfall bay at the coast. Here the sewage is screened, the screenings being automatically removed and passed through a disintegrator pump before being turned into the storage tanks. The tanks are designed to hold the dry weather flow from the town for the period between two tides. Storage is controlled by an electrically operated valve which is timed by a lunar time-switch to open 30 minutes after full tide (i.e. on the ebb tide) and as soon as the tide has dropped below the level of the stored sewage. Thus the disintegrated sewage is discharged only on the ebb tide and is carried out of the bay. Float tests proved that there is no likelihood of the sewage returning with the next tide. Three hours after discharge begins the valve will automatically close and the tanks will start storing again.

When rain falls much storm water finds its way into the sewers which are of the combined system. This cannot be stored in the tanks and the storm water passes to a pump well from whence it is pumped out at any state of the tide, by one or two 65 H.P. pumps which come into operation automatically depending on the intensity of the storm.

The condition of the shore adjacent to the outfall has been much improved by the construction of the concrete outfall bay and the storage until the ebb tide. Deposition of crude sewage on the shore no longer occurs."

HOUSING.

	<u>Flats</u>	<u>Houses.</u>
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(1) By local authority	Nil	13
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	Nil	11

1. <u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>		
(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		235
(b) No. of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose.		426
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
(a) Number found during the year		2
(b) Estimated number existing at end of year		124
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		55

2.	<u>Houses Demolished</u>			
	In Clearance Areas-(Housing Act, 1936 Repairs & Rent Act, 1954):	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
			Persons	Families
	(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	7	9	4
	(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Not in Clearance Areas:			
	(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	4	3	1
		Number		
3.	<u>Unfit Houses Closed:</u>			
	(1) Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 & Sections (10(1) & 11(2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953	12	28	11
	(2) Under Sections 3(1) & 3(2), Housing Act, 1949	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	<u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:</u>		By Owner	By Local Authority
	(1) After informal action by local authority		24	--
	(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts		1	Nil
	(b) Housing Act, 1936		Nil	Nil
	(3) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954		Nil	--
5.	<u>Unfit houses in Temporary Use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)</u>			Nil
6.	<u>Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement</u>			Nil

7. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:	No. of Schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	9	9
(b) Approved by local authority	6	6
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	9	9
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were 5 cases of food poisoning notified during August, 1957.

Investigations were made to determine the nature of the poison, but it did not prove possible to decide with certainty. A chemical poisoning appeared most likely.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

2 houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis, and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

Notifications of Infectious Disease.

Disease.	Number of cases in year					1957		
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	11	13	12	7	1	0	0	0
Measles	7	298	98	46	5	30	0	0
Whooping cough	37	0	35	4	7	10	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	0	1	6	0	1	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Para-typhoid fever	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Food poisoning	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0
TOTALS	57	312	147	63	13	48	6	0

The incidence of infectious disease has again been low throughout the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1957

Age Periods. Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2		0		0		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and death from tuberculosis in Ulverston during the past 12 years.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Inspection for purpose of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	8	6	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	52	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1957.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. Disposal of the refuse has been by controlled tipping at Tebay Lane. Treatments have been carried out to prevent infestations by rodents and insects and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine treatments of the sewers, sewage works, controlled tip and beck courses have been carried out.

The following is a summary of the total treatments undertaken.

PROPERTIES.

Dwelling houses	585
Other Properties	194
Agricultural	16

HOUSING.

Action has been taken under the Housing Acts in continuation of the Council's five year slum clearance proposals which expire in 1960.

Daltongate Clearance Area consisting of 12 houses was approved and the Clearance Order confirmed without modification by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 11th September, 1957.

Default action in relation to Bell's Yard Clearance Order was carried out by the Council and seven houses were demolished as also were four other houses in the area subjected to demolition orders.

16 families from slum clearance property were re-housed and 12 houses closed for human habitation. It is proposed to include these closed houses in clearance areas at a future date when it is convenient to represent the whole areas for demolition.

In view of the default action which has had to be used in Clearance Orders and Demolition Orders the Council may wish to re-consider the effect of acquiring property in future clearance areas and demolishing the property themselves. Most demolition by contractors has only consisted of the removal of salvage material and the houses have then been left in a ruinous and dangerous condition. Even though such land acquired by the Council may appear to have no redevelopment value, proper demolition of unfit and dangerous buildings and power to keep the land clean and tidy may well offset the additional expenditure to the ultimate benefit of the town.

Under the Rent Act, 1957, 23 applications were made for certificates of disrepair and 21 such certificates were issued. In eight cases the owners gave undertakings to carry out the necessary repairs. No applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair under this Act or the 1954 Act were received.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

The public slaughterhouse in the Gill has again been used by local butchers and two butchers from the Rural district. The total number of animals slaughtered (5,411) is in excess of the previous year by 510, mainly due to an increase in sheep and lambs which offset the continued reduction in pigs.

In view of the new proposed standards of hygiene for slaughterhouses and the expiration of the Council's lease of the Gill slaughterhouse in 1959 meetings between the Council and representatives of the butchers and auction mart have been held to consider future slaughtering. No final proposals or decisions have yet been made.

Improvements in the general reduction of disease and subsequent condemnations reported in previous years have continued. One animal condemned for generalised tuberculosis was brought to the notice of the Divisional Veterinary Officer and traced to a herd outside the district. Localised infections of tuberculosis were also found in one cow and five pigs.

Cysticercus Bovis (the cystic stage of tapeworm found in beef) affected six young cattle and the meat was subjected to three weeks refrigeration in accordance with Ministry policy before being released for sale.

An outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the area closed the abbatoir for a short period but after disinfection licensed animals were admitted for slaughter during the period of control.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	837	300	230	3491	555
Number inspected	837	300	230	3491	555
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	2	9	14	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	21	20	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	2.5%	7.3%	3.9%	0.4%	0.4%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	1	1	-	-	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	0.1%	0.3%	-	-	0.9%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	6	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration.....	6	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number affected with cysticercosis.....	0.7%	-	-	-	-

Causes of Condemnation.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, generalised	1	-	-	-	1
Anaemia, advanced	-	-	2	-	2
Bruising, extensive and severe	-	-	1	-	1
Emaciation, pathological	1	-	4	-	5
Fever	1	-	-	-	1
Immaturity	-	4	1	-	5
Oedema, generalised	-	-	3	-	3
Peritonitis, septic	-	-	-	2	2
Pleurisy, septic	-	1	1	-	2
Pyæmia, including joint ill	-	2	2	-	4
Septicaemia or toxæmia	-	2	-	-	2
Total	3	9	14	2	28

Food Shops and Premises.

Frequent visits to all food premises have been made and 229 inspections were carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The general standard of the premises is good but there is a constant necessity to require a higher standard of practical hygiene to be put into daily use. Instances such as the often unnecessary handling of food and failure to use tongs or other utensils provided; exposing perishable food for sale in shop windows where the temperature is higher than is reasonable; using glass counter display cabinets for wrapped goods (chiefly chocolate) which could be better used for "open foods" are the most common failures.

As a result of inspection the following were required and completed at various food premises:-

Installation of additional hand washing basins - 6
Cleansing or redecoration - 7
New hot water supply and sink - 2
Provision of refrigeration - 1

Ice Cream.

Two premises are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale and 35 premises for storage and sale. The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice-cream supplied by the larger manufacturers outside the district. All premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Milk and Dairies.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 two persons are registered as Distributors and two premises are registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms).

Four dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and one retail Distributors licence to sell Pasteurised Milk have been issued.

13 samples of milk were obtained for bacteriological examination for cleanliness, all proved to be satisfactory, and 8 samples taken were reported negative when examined for tubercle bacilli.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J.K. YATES.

Public Health Inspector.

